1: Gurdon, Philip R. T. The Khasis. With an introduction by Sir Charles Lyall. London, David Nutt, 1907.

xv, 227 p.: 19 illustrations.

Yales Bjll. 71.

[Major Gurdon, Superintendent of Ethnology in Assam, was for three years Deputy-Commissioner of the Khasi District, and knew well the people whose institutions he describes here. This work is "an attempt to give a systematic account of the Khasi people, their manners and customs, their ethnological affinities, their laws and institutions, their religious beliefs, their folklore, their theories as to their origin, and their language".] --Analyst]

Field dates: none
Analyst: Alice McCluskey

Evaluation: Ethnologist--4,5
Processed in 1956

2: Stegmiller, P.F. Aus dem Religiosen Leben der Khasi [The Religious Life of the Khasi]. Anthropos, Vol. XVI, pp. 407-441. Salzburg: Leo Gesellschaft, 1921.

Yale: Nk10. ⁄An89. Vol. 16/17.

1 Figure, 5 Plates. [HRAF pagination: 1-70]

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[The author, an Apostolic missionary in Assam, herein describes various aspects of the Khasi religion. His presentation includes lists of Khasi spirits and gods and many Khasi religious taboos; he treats in detail ceremonies related to taboos, illness, naming and funerals. Incidental to such ceremonies are the sacrifices and divination procedures such as egg-throwing, which are adequately explained. He also gives texts and translations of the invocations used in the ceremonies. --Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: George R. Bedell

Evaluation: Missionary-4, 5
Processed in 1956

3: Stegmiller, P. F. Opfer und Opferbräuche der Khasi [Sacrifice and sacrificial customs of the Khasi]. Mitteilungen Anthropologischen Gesellschaft in Wien, 54 (1924): 211-231. Wien, 1924.

4 plates.

Yale: Nk10.+ An88. v. 54 /HRAF MS: pp. 1-42/

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[The writer, former Apostolic Missionary of Assam, characterizes the religion of the Khasi and describes the various types and occasions for sacrifices. He records a description of the initiation rites of the lyngdoh, or officiating priest. Egg-throwing, a popular method of divination in all types of sacrifices is minutely described in this article.]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Missionary-4, 5
Processed in 1956

4: Stegmiller, P. F. Pfeilschiessen und Jagdgebräuche der Khasi [Arrow shooting and hunting of the Khasi]. Anthropos, 20 (1925): 607-623. Salzburg: 1925.

2 plates; 2 figures

Yale: Nk10 + An89. v. 20 /HRAF MS: pp. 1-36/

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[This article includes a detailed description of the preparation of bows and arrows used for both hunting and for archery contests. The writer describes the archery games, the associated rituals and includes some song texts. There is a short description of hunting practices and a list of the animals sought.]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Missionary-4, 5
Processed in 1956

5: Stegmiller, P. F. Das Marktleben der Khasi [The market life of the Khasi]. In Festschrift P. W. Schmidt. Wien, 1924: 703-710.

10 plates.

Yale: A3. 025 /HRAF MS: pp. 1 25/

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[Stegmiller concisely describes articles entering into market trade, the location of markets, and days set aside for marketing. He lists standard weights and measures and prices. His photographs illustrate methods of burden carrying as the Khasi travel to market.]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Missionary--4, 5
Processed in 1956

6: Becker, C. Die Nongkrem-Puja in den Khasi-Bergen (Assam) [The Nongkrem Puja in the Khasi Mountains (Assam)]. Anthropos, 4 (1909): 892-902. Salzburg. 1909.

5 plates [HRAF MS. Pp. 1-18].

Yale: Nk10+ An89 v. 4.

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[The writer describes the great annual sacrifice which takes place in May, its preparations, the sacrificial feast and the celebrations which follow. A brief description of the folk dances is included. The photographs at the end of the article indicate the costumes, ornament and instruments used throughout the ceremonial.]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Missionary-4, 5
Processed in 1956

7: Becker, C. Familienbesitz und Mutterrecht. [Family property and maternal rights]. Zeitschrift für Buddhismus und verwandte Gebiete, 4 (1924): 127-138, 300-310. München, Oskar Schloss, 1924.

4 plates [HRAF MS. pp. 1-18]

Yale: Mbn. Z37. Vol. 6-7.

Translated from the German for the Human Relations Area Files by Elizabeth Knight.

[This article is concerned with describing family property rights and inheritance among the matrilineal Khasi, the duties and obligations of the clan-mother, and of the men who are born into the group and who marry into the group. Becker discusses the effects of conversion to Christian religions and on inheritance, the division of family property and also regards the use of holy or taboo lands.]

Field date: 1910-1911
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Missionary-4, 5
Processed in 1956

8: Gurdon, Major P. R. T. Note on the Khasis, Syntengs, and allied Tribes inhabiting the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District in Assam. Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. LXXIII, Part III, no. 4, pp. 57-74, Calcutta, 1904.

2 plates

Yale: Fdl2. R81. v. 73 [3

[The writer, Superintendent of Ethnography in Assam, gives an excellent, concise resume of the Khasis and allied tribes of Assam. In this brief article, he describes adequately some characteristics of their language. His later volume on the Khasi, in which he amplifies much of these same data, has also been processed for the files. --Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Government Official--3
Processed in 1956

9: Godwin-Austen, Major H. H. On the Stone Monuments of the Khasi Hill Tribes, and on some of the Peculiar Rites and Customs of the People. Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. I, pp. 122-143. London, 1872.

4 plates

Yale: Nk10 R81 v.1

[Major Godwin-Austen, Deputy Superintendent Topographical Survey of India, discusses several earlier sources describing Khasi monuments and funerary customs. He describes the monuments and their distribution in the areas peripheral to the Khasi groups. A discussion by various members of the Institute appears at the end of his paper. --Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Government official-3
Processed in 1956

10: Clarke, C. B. The Stone Monuments of the Khasi Hills. Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. III, pp. 481-493. London, 1874.

Yale: Nk10. R81. v. 3

[The article describes the two types of Khasi monuments, horizontal and upright slabs, and their customary arrangements. The relative antiquity of these monuments is briefly discussed in terms of kinds of rock employed, sources where these slabs are obtained, workmanship and distribution. A brief commentary on the paper appears at the end of the article. --Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Unknown--3
Processed in 1956

11: Chattopadhyay, K. P. Khasi Kinship and Social Organization. University of Calcutta Anthropological Papers, New Series, No. 6. pp. 1-78, Calcutta University Press, 1941.

Library of Congress: GN2 C18

[The writer, head of the Department of Anthropology of Calcutta University, describes kin terminology and classification, succession, marriage restrictions and patterned kin relationships. On the basis of these data he indicates that the hypothesis of a former dual division of Khasi society is untenable.--Analyst]

Field date: none
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluation: Ethnologist--4, 5
Processed in 1956

12: Mukherjee, Ram Krishna et al. The Khasi Huts of Mawphlang. University of Calcutta Anthropological Papers, New Series, No. 6, pp. 177-187. Calcutta University Press, 1941.

Library of Congress GN2. C18

[The writers, post-graduate students in the Department of Anthropology of the University of Calcutta survey some typical Khasi house types. They note certain recent structural changes and trends.--Analyst]

Field dates: 1940
Analyst: Helen Takacs

Evaluations: Anthropologist--4,5
Processed in 1956

13: Mukherjee, Bhabananda. Social Groupings Among the Khasis of Assam. Man in India, vol. 38, pp. 208-212. Ranchi: Nirmal Chandra Sarkar, 1958.

Yale: Nk10 M32 38-39

/This source deals exclusively with Khasi kin groupings, i.e., clan (sib), sub-clan, family, household, etc., and some mention is made of the possible effects of modern conditions on family life. The author gives a fairly clear breakdown of these groupings and their function, as well as native terms. At the time of publication the author was a member of the Department of Anthropology of the Indian Government./

Field date: 1954
Analyst: Millicent Kim

Evaluation: Ethnographer - 5
Processed in 1963

14:Roy, David. The Place of The Khasi in the World. Man in India, Vol. 18, pp. 122-134. Ranchi: G. E. L. Mission Press, 1938.

Yale: Nkl0 M32 18-19

/This source (written by a Khasi) deals mainly with the Khasi individual's view of his kin and non-kin, the relationships and placement of these groups in reference to himself and the concepts of marriage which result from these beliefs. Classificatory-descriptive systems of kinship terms and the relationship of these terms to group definition and function are also included. There is some mention of Khasi cosmogony. --Analyst./

Field date: no date
Analyst: Millicent Kim

Evaluation: Indigene - 5
Processed in 1963

15: Nakane, Chie. Garo and Khasi; a comparative study in matrilineal systems. Paris, Université, École Pratique des Hautes Études - Sorbonne; VI^{e} Section: Sciences Économiques et Sociales, Cahiers de l'Homme, Nouvelle Série, 5. Paris, Mouton, 1967.

187 p.; 8 plates, 13 text figures; 9 maps; bibliography.

Yale: Nkc90 967N.

[After describing the matrilineal system of the Garo and the Khasi separately, the author compares them with each other and with other societies having matrilineal systems. Similarity between the social structure of the Garo and Khasi is found only at the level of the minimum criteria of matrilineal systems: the basic succession rules of mother-daughter, mother's-brother's-sister's-son; and the fact that property is owned by the woman, but the controlling power and authority over it are in the hands of the man. Differences lie in the composition of a property group: the property group of the Khasi is formed by a descent group at a shallow generational depth, while that of the Garo is maintained by the cooperation of two local lines, each of which represents a localized lineage group. Hence the descent group of the Khasi tends to have a stronger solidarity whereas the one of the Garo tends to be weakened in its solidarity. The author also gives consideration to culture change taking place due to expansion of both groups into the lowlands, and consequently more intense contact with the surrounding Hindu population, as well as due to Christian missionaries and their educational programs.]

Field date: October 1955-February 1956
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
Dubravka Schmalzbauer, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist -5
Processed in 1969-1974

16: McCormack, Anna P. Khasis. In Frank M. Lebar, Gerald C. Hickey, and John K. Musgrave, eds., Ethnic Groups of Mainland Southeast Asia, pp. 105-112. New Haven: Human Relations Area Files Press, 1964.

HRAF copy. DLC card no.: 64-25414.

/This is a summary of Khasi culture and society. Data are drawn from numerous sources and the author's own field research. Due consideration is given to historical developments, in particular the more recent culture changes./

Field date: 1956-1958
Analyst: Sigrd Khera

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1970

17: Banerjee, S. The Khasi festival of 'pomblang.' India, Government, Department of Anthropology. Bulletin, 5, no. 1 (1956): 53-59. Calcutta, 1962.

Yale: Nk10 In2 3-5.

[This article is a detailed description of one particular festival of the Khasi held in honor of a founding ancestor with a view to ensure the general well-being. The author observed the festival personally. The print in the original source is quite poor.]

Field date: June 1955
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
Dubravka Schmalzbauer, checker

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1970-1973

18: Godwin-Austen, H.H. Further notes on the rude stone monuments of the Khasi hill tribes. Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, Journal, 5 (1875): 37-41. London, Trübner and Co., 1876.

2 plates.

Yale: Nk10 R81 v.5.

[This source contains brief comments and descriptions of megalithic stone monuments observed by the author in the Khasi hills, along with a photograph of the structures. Also included are a sketch and comments on cairns observed by the author in the same area. These notes are but a brief supplement to the author's more definitive discussion of this subject (see source number 9 in this file). The author, a British Army major, was at the time Deputy Superintendent Topographical Survey of India.]

Field date: ca. 1872
Analysts: Irving Rosenthal, marker
John Beierle, checker

Evaluation: Government Official-3
Processed in 1970-1974

19: Assam. Department of Economics and Statistics. Report on rural economic survey in United K. and J. Hills. Shillong, Printed at the Government Press, 1963.

2, 155 p. tables.

Yale: Nn96 I3 963A.

[This survey report gives a general description of the economic situation of the Khasi people as found in 1958, and provides a great amount of statistical material on its specific features. Before the 1948 division of the Indian sub-continent into India and Pakistan, the Khasis enjoyed a prosperous economy. Their main income had come through the sale of agricultural products (mostly oranges, betelnut and betel leaves, rice, and potatoes) to an area which belongs now to East Pakistan. Due to the division, the Khasis who live on the Indian side of the border have lost their market. Various measures to boost up the desparate economic situation which have been undertaken by the Indian government have not shown any noticeable effect. There is material on every page on subcultural differences. The source is very poorly printed; what is in HRAF is the best of several copies.]

Field date: 1958
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
Dubravka Schmalzbauer, checker

Evaluation: Government Officials-5
Processed in 1970-1974

20: Hunter, William Wilson. Statistical account of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In his, A Statistical Account of Assam, vol. 2. London, Trübner and Co., 1879: 201-255.

Yale: DS485 A84 H85 2.

[This is a very general description of Khasi culture and society as known to the early British colonial explorers and administrators during the second half of 19th century. It also describes environmental features, possibilities of economic development of the region, and the administrative organization as established by the British by the the time this account was written (1875).]

Field date: no date
Analysts: Sigrid Khera, marker
Dubravka Schmalzbauer, checker

Evaluation: Government Official-4
Processed in 1970-1973

AR7 Khasi

21: Ehrenfels, Omar R. Khasi Kinship Terms in Four Dialects. Anthropos, Vol. 48, pp. 396-418. Posieux (Freiburg), Schweiz: Anthropos-Institut, 1953.

Yale: Nk10+An89 48.

/This article is concerned with Khasi kinship terms -- a comparative analysis of their use in four different dialect areas, and a discussion of their relationship to the Khasi matrilineal social system. The author, an anthropologist, has included lists of kinship terms from each of the dialects, arranged so that comparisons can readily be made and variations noted. He relates some variations in kinship terminology to differing social and economic traits. The data was collected during a five week period using a Khasi interpreter and informants./

Field date: 1950
Analyst: Irving Rosenthal

Evaluation: Ethnologic-6.5
Processed in 1970